

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 SS-15 STR-05 TRSE-00 NSC-05
CEA-01 AGRE-00 L-03 H-01 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, JA, US

SUBJECT: NAKAO MEETING WITH SECRETARY BERGLAND

REFS: (A) STATE 303508; (B) TOKYO 19280

1. NAKAO, CHAIRMAN OF LDP AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE, MET WITH AGRICULTURE SECRETARY BERGLAND AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY HATHAWAY ON WEDNESDAY, DEC 21, TO DISCUSS AGRICULTURAL POLICIES AND TRADE ISSUES.

2. DURING THE MEETING, SECRETARY BERGLAND SUGGESTED THAT THE GOJ SHOULD LIBERALIZE ITS QUOTAS ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS TO EXPAND IMPORTS. NAKAO REPLIED AT LENGTH THAT
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AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT WAS CRITICAL TO THE LDP'S CONTINUATION IN POWER. NAKAO STRESSED THAT IF THE USG PRESSED TOO HARD ON THE GOJ TO ELIMINATE QUOTAS OR INCREASE IMPORTS OF QUOTA-RESTRICTED ITEMS, THIS WOULD DESTROY THE LDP'S AGRICULTURAL BASE OF SUPPORT.

3. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HATHAWAY SUGGESTED THAT JAPAN

SHOULD MAKE A LARGER CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM, GRANT MORE FOOD AID, AND LIBERALIZE CREDIT TERMS FOR COTTON IMPORTS.

4. COMMENT. IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT NAKAO MAY HAVE LEFT WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT LIBERALIZATION OF QUOTAS IS OF LESS IMPORTANCE TO USDA THAN THE OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED. THIS IS NOT THE CASE. THE QUOTA ITEMS ARE OF GREAT DOMESTIC POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE. THEREFORE, SUCH IMPRESSIONS SHOULD BE CORRECTED IF POSSIBLE. VANCE

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